

# CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS

*Faith may be defined briefly as the illogical belief in the occurrence of the improbable – Henry David Thoreau.*

Our Department of Iowa Constitution and Bylaws (CB&L) is patterned after our National organization's Constitution and Bylaws. The National CB&L is the permanent document of our organization. It can only be changed by action at a National Convention.

Our Department CB&L is specific to our state of Iowa's organization. Each state has unique objectives and each has their own CB&L, but no state's can be in conflict with the national organization.

Constitution and Bylaws not only set forth the ideals and principles for which we stand as members of this greatest women's organization in the world, it also defines procedures to be followed.

It is very important that districts, counties, and units have an understanding of our Blue Book – which is where our Department's Constitution and Bylaws are published. Just as the National Constitution and Bylaws are a permanent record that can only be changed by action at a national convention, the same holds true for our Department C&BL. Changes may be proposed by any member. This proposal should be sent to the Constitution and Bylaws chairman at least one month before the Department Convention. The Past Department President's will review the proposed change at their annual meeting which is held prior to the opening of the Department Convention. After careful review and discussion they may or may not recommend a change. Their recommendation will then go to the Department's Executive Board for action at the Pre-convention meeting. Changes approved by the Executive Board will then be presented to the members assembled at the annual department convention. As stated earlier, no change can be made without approval of the members at the convention.

Does your unit have a Constitution and Bylaws? All units within the Department of Iowa should have a Constitution and Bylaws and Standing Rules. Please refer to the Blue Book to see a "sample constitution".

Standing Rules can best be described as guidelines. They are much easier to change. A standing rule might cover when to send flowers and how much to spend.

Each unit should review their Unit Constitution and Standing Rules. Study an article at each meeting. Review your standing rules at least once each year.

Those who formed this organization had the vision and courage to create --- it has taken *faith* and courage to move forward to be the greatest women's organization in the world. But that doesn't mean we can't change – in order to move forward as an organization willing to serve more women, it sometimes becomes necessary to change our w:



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